

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 14, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

-- A specific embodiment of the present invention in which a player of a gaming machine (e.g., machine 100 of Fig. 1) is registered with a player tracking system will now be described with reference to flowchart 300 of Fig. 3. The player, who has either not previously participated in the gaming venue's player tracking program (or gaming site's program where the gaming environment is a wide area network such as the Internet), or has forgotten or misplaced their player tracking card, is invited ~~to provide~~ to participate in the player tracking program (302) by providing account data unrelated to the player tracking system such as, for example, account data from an incentive program (e.g., frequent flyer or shopper accounts), a financial account (e.g., debit or credit cards), a membership (e.g., Costco), etc. Such an invitation might be presented, for example, on a screen or via an audio playback mechanism. --